

Lee Monument
Lee Circle,
Monument Avenue and N. Allen Avenue
Richmond
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1295

HABS
VA,
44 RICH,
147-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LEE MONUMENT

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Location: Lee Circle, Monument Avenue and N. Allen Avenue, Richmond, Virginia.

Significance: The Lee Monument, a symbol of the reverence in which General Robert E. Lee and the confederate cause was held at the end of the nineteenth century, marks the beginning of Monument Avenue, a wide boulevard punctuated by several confederate monuments.

Description: The bronze statue of Robert E. Lee mounted on his horse, Traveller, faces south. The statue is mounted on an elaborate granite base in a landscaped, 200'-diameter circle.

History: In 1886 Virginia governor Fitzhugh Lee consolidated two rival groups agitating for a memorial to Confederate hero Robert E. Lee into a new Lee Monument Association. The association awarded the commission for a statue to French sculptor Jean Antonin Mercié. The cornerstone was laid October 27, 1887, and the statue was unveiled amid great ceremony on May 29, 1890.

Project
Information:

Documentation of Monument Avenue was undertaken in summer 1991 by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), a division of the National Park Service, Washington, D.C., under the general direction of Robert J. Kapsch, chief. The project was sponsored by the Monument Avenue Centennial Committee, Millie Jones and Ceci Amrhein, co-chairpersons, and Sylvia Summers, director of development. Funding was provided by the Historic Monument Avenue and Fan District Foundation, the City of Richmond, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the Historic Richmond Foundation, the F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc., and the Robert G. Cabell III and Maude Morgan Cabell Foundation.

HABS senior historian Alison K. Hoagland directed the project and compiled this historical report. Kathy Edwards (University of California at Berkeley) was the field supervisor; Esme Howard (Yale University) and Toni Prawl (University of Missouri) were the team historians. Jonathan C. Spodek, AIA, produced architectural drawings and Jack Boucher took the photographs. The team's work resulted in the publication Monument Avenue. Researchers are referred to that volume for more information.

ADDENDUM TO:
LEE MONUMENT
Monument Avenue & Allen Avenue
Richmond
Independent City
Virginia

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